



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **METROPOLIS MAN SENTENCED TO 210 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

BENTON, Ill. — A 42-year-old Metropolis man was sentenced to more than 17 years in prison yesterday for distributing child pornography, which resulted from an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Michael Joseph Willey was sentenced Tuesday in the U.S. District Court in Benton, Ill., according to an announcement by Ronald J. Tenpas, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois. Willey was sentenced to 210 months imprisonment, fined \$500, and was placed on three years of supervised release.

Willey had previously pleaded guilty to a one-count indictment which charged that on Nov. 17 he knowingly engaged in interstate commerce of child pornography.

“This sentencing shows what can be accomplished when law enforcement agencies work in partnership,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. “To those who are tempted to participate in sexually exploiting children on the internet, take note – we will find you, prosecute you, and send you off to prison.”

Willey’s arrest and prosecution were part of [Operation Predator](#), ICE’s comprehensive initiative to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, international sex tourists, internet child pornographers, and human traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,300 individuals nationwide, including more than 300 in Illinois.

The Metropolis Police Department assisted in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney George A. Norwood prosecuted the case.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*